levels targetted by the nationalised banks are reflected in the MoUs entered into by the banks with RBI.

(b) Nationalised banks have made recoveries in NPAs by way of cash recovery and recoveries through compromise/write-off during 1995-96 and 1996-97 (latest available) as under:—

(Rs. in crores)

| | 1995-96 | 1996-97 |
|---|---|---|
| Compromise/write | 1433.36 | 1904.04 |
| Recovery | 3330.18 | 3456.28 |
| Total: | 4763.54 | 5360.32 |

(c) and (d) The review of performance obligations and commitments made by the banks on recovery of the NPAs is done by the RBI/Government on an ongoing basis.

**Increase in Drug Smuggling**

4544. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the increasing drug smuggling in the country;

(b) whether some foreign countries are using India as a transit point;

(c) if so, the action initiated against drug smuggling and to prevent using India as transit point; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI R. JANARTHANAM): (a) The Government is aware of the drug smuggling in the country. It has not shown any uniform rising trend.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The major portion of the Indo-Pak border, vulnerable to drug smuggling, has been fenced and provided with flood lights. The Bilateral Agreements with Myanmar and Pakistan provide for increasing cooperation in matters relating to demand reduction and prevention of illicit traffic in narcotic drugs. The BSF and Coast Guards have been vested with powers under the Customs Act to interdict narcotic drugs. In addition to the above, all the enforcement agencies empowered under the NDPS Act maintain constant vigil against any illicit drug trafficking within the country.

**Technical Committees for Crop Loans**

4545. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had in the recent past constituted Technical Committees (TCs) in every district of the country to work out the crop loans for various crops and their uniform adoption by banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether TCs of all the districts in Gujarat have worked out the crop loans to be granted by banks to the farmers of each district of the State;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps Government have taken to ensure easy flow of loans to farmers of Gujarat from the bank?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI R. JANARTHANAM); (a) and (b) The scales of finance/unit costs are decided by the Technical Committee of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) at the district level which comprises of officials of NABARD, banks, Government agencies, etc. The unit costs decided by the Technical Committee are only indicative in nature and help lending institutions in deciding the quantum of bank finance to be extended to farmers.

(c) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.